

What is claimed is:

1. A deck system comprising:
 - a plurality of laterally spaced joists;
 - a plurality of boards extending across and supported by the joists, each of said boards defining a pair of longitudinally extending grooves on generally opposite sides of the board; and
 - a plurality of fasteners rigidly coupled to the joists, each of said fasteners presenting a pair of protrusions, each of said protrusions being received in a respective groove of a respective board in a substantially complementary fashion.
- 10 2. The deck system according to claim 1,
each of said fasteners being disposed between and in contact with an adjacent pair of
the boards.
- 15 3. The deck system according to claim 2,
said adjacent pair of boards being spaced from one another by the fastener.
4. The deck system according to claim 2,
each side of each board presenting an upper lip and a lower lip,
20 said groove being defined generally between the upper and lower lips.
5. The deck system according to claim 4,
said upper lip projecting further than the lower lip.
- 25 6. The deck system according to claim 4,
each of said fasteners being disposed generally below the upper lips of the adjacent
pair of the boards.
7. The deck system according to claim 4,
each of said fasteners including a broad head and a mid-section narrower than the
30 head,
said head including said projections,
said mid-section being disposed between and contacting the lower lips of the adjacent
pair of the boards.

8. The deck system according to claim 1,
said fasteners being the primary means of coupling the boards to the joists.

5 9. The deck system according to claim 1,
said fasteners being the only means of coupling the boards to the joists.

10 10. A deck system comprising:
a plurality of laterally spaced joists;
a plurality of boards extending across and supported by the joists, each of said boards
presenting a pair of similarly configured opposite sides, each of said sides
including a pair of spaced-apart longitudinally extending lips presenting
opposing inwardly facing surfaces; and
a plurality of fasteners rigidly coupled to the joists, each of said fasteners presenting
a pair of protrusions, each of said protrusions contacting both of the inwardly
facing surfaces.
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20 11. The deck system according to claim 10,
each pair of said lips cooperatively defining at least a portion of a longitudinal
groove,
each of said protrusions being received in the longitudinal groove.

25 12. The deck system according to claim 11,
each of said protrusions being received in the longitudinal groove in a substantially
complemental fashion.

30 13. The deck system according to claim 11,
said longitudinal groove presenting an inner-most surface representing the deepest
portion of the groove,
one of said lips extending further from the inner-most surface than the other of the
lip.

14. The deck system according to claim 13,
said one of said lips extending at least 10 percent further from the inner-most surface
than the other of the lips.

5 15. The deck system according to claim 10,
each of said protrusions continually exerting a holding force on one of the lips,
said holding force forcing the board towards the joist.

10 16. The deck system according to claim 15,
said protrusion being formed of a resilient material,
said holding force being exerted due to flexure of the protrusion.

17. A method of coupling a plurality of boards to a plurality of support members, said method comprising the steps of:

- 15 (a) rigidly attaching a first fastener to a first one of said support members;
(b) positioning a first board across said first one of the support members and against the first fastener to thereby form a mating relationship between the first board and the first fastener;
(c) positioning a second fastener against the first board to thereby form a mating relationship between the first board and the second fastener; and
20 (d) rigidly attaching the second fastener to said first one of the support members while maintaining the mating relationship between the first board and the first and second fasteners.

25 18. The method according to claim 17,
said first board being fixed generally between the first and second fasteners.

19. The method according to claim 17,
step (b) including inserting a protrusion of the first fastener into a first longitudinal
groove of the first board,
step (c) including inserting a protrusion of the second fastener into a second
5 longitudinal groove of the first board,
said first and second longitudinal grooves being formed on generally opposite sides
of the first board.
20. The method according to claim 19,
10 said protrusion of the first fastener being received in a substantially complementary
fashion in the first longitudinal groove of the first board to thereby form the
mating relationship between the first board and the first fastener,
said protrusion of the second fastener being received in a substantially complementary
15 fashion in the second longitudinal groove of the first board to thereby form
the mating relationship between the first board and the second fastener.
21. The method according to claim 17,
step (b) including causing the protrusion of the first fastener to be flexed.
- 20 22. The method according to claim 21,
step (b) including causing the protrusion of the first fastener to exert a generally
downward holding force on the first board.
23. The method according to claim 22,
25 step (d) including causing the protrusion of the second fastener to be flexed.
24. The method according to claim 23,
step (d) including causing the protrusion of the second fastener to exert a generally
downward holding force on the first board.

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25. The method according to claim 17; and
- (e) positioning a second board across said first one of the support members and against the second fastener to thereby form a mating relationship between the second board and the second fastener.

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26. The method according to claim 25,
said second fastener being disposed generally between the first and second boards.

- 10 27. The method according to claim 26,
said second fastener causing a gap to be maintained between the first and second boards.